

HOUSE No. 3796

Message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to validating certain votes passed by the town of Athol at the special town meeting held on January 31, 2011 and validating the annual town election held on April 4, 2011. November 8, 2011.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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November 7, 2011.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 8, Paragraph 1, Clause (2) of the Amendments to the Constitution, as amended by Article LXXXIX, I am filing for your consideration the attached legislation entitled, "An Act Validating Certain Votes Passed by the Town of Athol at the Special Town Meeting Held on January 31, 2011 and Validating the Annual Town Election Held on April 4, 2011."

Senator Brewer and the Athol Board of Selectmen have requested that I file this special legislation on behalf of the Town. The purpose of the legislation is to validate votes and actions taken at the Town Meeting, held January 31, 2011, and at the 2011 Annual Town Election, held on April 4, 2011. This legislation is necessary because the warrants for the Town Meeting and Election were not published in the Athol Daily News as required by the Town Charter. The bill sponsors are confident that the townspeople did receive adequate notice of the Meeting and Election through a variety of channels including the Town's online calendar, household mailings, and articles in other local publications.

I urge your early and favorable consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a horizontal line.

DEVAL L. PATRICK,
Governor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven.

AN ACT VALIDATING CERTAIN VOTES PASSED BY THE TOWN OF ATHOL AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 31, 2011 AND VALIDATING THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION HELD ON APRIL 4, 2011.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any defect in the calling or conduct of the Town of Athol special
- 2 town meeting held on January 31, 2011 and the annual town election held on April 4, 2011, and
- 3 notwithstanding any general or special law, charter provision or town by-law to the contrary, all
- 4 actions taken by the Town of Athol at such meeting and election are hereby ratified, validated,
- 5 approved and confirmed in all respects.
- 6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.